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PRESS RELEASE

—For Immediate Release—

Diane Cavanaugh, an Associate Clerk in the Cumberland County Superior Court, is a recipient this year of a Judicial Branch Special Services Award. Ms. Cavanaugh has worked in the Superior Court in Portland since 1999, having previously served at the Superior Court in Androscoggin County where she began as an assistant clerk in 1985.

Ms. Cavanaugh is highly respected for her leadership and skills in dealing with a wide variety of matters on the Superior Court docket. Of particular note this year is the role that she has played in working with the District Court in addressing the Family Matters Docket. The court system has adopted a new model for scheduling which results in the District Court and Superior Court working cooperatively to address all case types. While family matters are primarily the responsibility of the District Court, they also represent the highest priority of cases, as determined by the Supreme Judicial Court. When additional assistance was needed to address this docket, Ms. Cavanaugh was asked to provide her expertise.

Through a joint initiative of the Superior and District Courts, a project was undertaken to address 280 pending cases. Diane was given sole responsibility for the administration of approximately half of those cases that needed prompt resolution. These cases were processed in the Superior Court with Ms. Cavanaugh handling the issuance of notices and scheduling of all trial management conferences, judicial settlement conferences, and trials. As a result the backlog was addressed and the courts are in a much better position to comply with time expectations for these high priority cases.

Participation in this project over a ten-month period was in addition to her regular responsibilities in the Cumberland County Superior Court, where she is an Associate Clerk, in the civil division and also serves as Single Justice Clerk to the Honorable Robert E. Crowley.

The Special Service Awards are given to individuals who make a contribution to improvements in the operation and performance of the Judicial Branch that's deserving of public recognition. Diane Cavanaugh is looked upon by her co-workers, judges, lawyers and the public as an asset, for her knowledge, personality, and dedication to the court system.